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UHR TrailBlazers 2026 Information and Application Form

The 2026 UHR TrailBlazers programme is for early career professionals who are looking to progress into management in the future.

This talent development programme has been designed to **test** your personal qualities in a range of activities, whilst at the same time helping you to enhance your **confidence** and **resilience**. We hope that participating in this talent development programme will encourage you to achieve more than you thought possible in your career.

UHR is keen to create an environment where talent can shine, and to offer opportunities for everyone to **learn, grow and stretch** themselves. Through your participation, your organisation is telling you that you have the potential skills and qualities to be a future leader in Higher Education and the wider public sector. It will be up to you to make the most of this unique experience and to cherish your networks online and offline over the coming months and years.

This programme is all about identifying and showcasing the tremendous breadth and depth of emerging talent that we have in Higher Education. Included in this briefing pack is everything you need to know about the programme, what you have to do next, dates and deadlines, the results and rewards.

So best of luck and allow your talent to shine!

How will the programme work?

1. Initial shortlisting

Enter the programme by completing the application form at the end of this document and sending it to [cpd@uhr.ac.uk](mailto:cpd@uhr.ac.uk) by **Friday 21 November**. Shortlisting will then take place and successful applicants will be notified and invited to attend the programme.

2. Programme

Successful applicants will be invited to take part in a two-day assessment of individual and group activities and presentations on **24** and **25 February** at the University of Birmingham.

3. Further opportunities

The 16 delegates will get the opportunity to apply for three further development opportunities:

* A funded place at the UHR Senior HR Summit 23-24 June 2026
* A funded place at the CUPA HR conference in the USA 4-6 October 2026
* One-year co-opted membership of the UHR Executive, starting in Autumn 2026

Price (+VAT)

£250pp (if successful, this is the cost to attend the programme 24-25 February)

Important event dates

**21 November 2025 – Deadline for submission of your application.**

To take part in the programme, you must send your application form to [cpd@uhr.ac.uk](mailto:cpd@uhr.ac.uk). Once this is logged we will send you an EDI form to complete.

**24and 25 February 2026 – the programme**

Overnight accommodation on **24 February** will be provided. Should accommodation be required for the evening before the programme starts (**23 February**) you will need to arrange this directly with the venue and your organisation will need to pay for this.

**23 and 24 June 2026**

UHR Senior HR Summit 2026 in Birmingham

**4to 6 October 2026**

CUPA HR ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO

USA

UHR TrailBlazers 2026 Entry Form

To register your interest in taking part in the UHR TrailBlazers programme, please email your completed entry form to [cpd@uhr.ac.uk](mailto:cpd@uhr.ac.uk) by **21 November 2025.**

**Your details**

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| --- | --- |
| **About You:** | |
| Surname: |  |
| Forename: |  |
| Job title: |  |
| Contact Tel: |  |
| Mobile: (please note we will add you to a WhatsApp group) |  |
| Email: |  |
| Alternative email: |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Your institution:** | |
| Name: |  |
| Postal address: |  |
| Post code: |  |

**Why are you applying?**

This is your opportunity to ‘sell yourself’ and tell us why you should be a part of TrailBlazers 2026. Please provide as much relevant information as you can, while being concise and avoiding ‘waffle’.

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| 1. **Tell us about something you’ve done in your life which has made a real positive difference to others?** |
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| 1. **Why have you chosen to work in Higher education?** |
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| 1. **What was the last thing you learned? How has this helped you in your work?** |
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| 1. **What do you hope to achieve in life? What do you want your legacy to be? (max. 1000 words)** |
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| 1. **To be completed by your HR Director/Chief People Officer**   Why are you supporting this application? What do you see in this person that indicates that they could be a TrailBlazer?  (max. 500 words) |
| **\*this must be completed by your HEI’s CPO/HRD**  **HR Director/Chief People Officer Name:**  **Email address:**  **Supporting statement from HRD/CPO:** |